



# CALPEEK

## CALIFORNIA POLITICAL WEEK

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### **CAMPAIGN 2000: ANOTHER REAPPORTIONMENT INITIATIVE FOR FALL MIGHT NOT BE NECESSARY.**

Editor's note: Reapportionment comes only once every 10 years, but in the year or two just before new lines are drawn, the party out of power goes into a state of *political paranoia*. In Calif.'s case, the result was the GOP-sponsored Prop. 25 - to take reapportionment out of the hands of the Legislature and give it to the CA Supreme Court. It was recently removed from the March ballot by the high court. Sources say this ruling cost the NRCC \$1.3 million in qualification costs. And even though Ted Costa now has a new remapping plan at the AG's office for title & summary, there are some **Calpeek** sources who think Republicans *won't* need a new initiative. Here's our analysis...

...As our sources note, at some point GOP State Senate Leader Ross Johnson and GOP Senate Caucus Leader Jim Brulte will figure out that as long as there is a *permanent early March primary*, there is no need for another costly initiative to take reapportionment away from the CA Legislature and give those powers to the CA Supreme Court...

...Why? In order for candidates to run in a district, they have to file in the previous year. Just like now: candidates who are running in 2000 began the filing process in early November 1999 with a Declaration of Intent. By early December the process was finished...

...As such, the *only way* to have lines approved in time for the March primary is to have the Calif. Legislature adopt an urgency bill on the new legislative and congressional boundaries and that requires a 2/3rds vote. Thus the new lines have to be drawn in a bipartisan manner. If there is a deadlock, then the CA Supreme Court would step in, as they have done in the past...

...Calif. won't even know how many new U.S. House

seats it will get until early 2001. But the census data won't even get to Sacto until April at the soonest. And then the data has to be loaded into computers - that takes another month. By the time lawmakers see new districts it will be late August or early September. And then there are public hearings. It will be *crunch time* in late October or early November...

...FYI: In a term limited legislature, the *losers* are the U.S. House incumbents of both parties who are in areas that have termed out State legislators. Best solution for the Calif. GOP: GOPers Johnson & Brulte should request a quiet chat about remapping with Gov. Davis and Demo Legislative leaders. Our sources say there are mutual interests here. Hummm. Stay tuned...

### **32<sup>nd</sup> SD SPECIAL: DEMO SOTO FINISHES AHEAD OF GUZMAN DESPITE BIG GOP ABSENTEE/GOTV DRIVE.**

Editor's note: Assemblywoman Nell Soto(D-Pomona) and GOP businessman Rob Guzman of Rancho Cucamonga will face off in the regular Mar. 7<sup>th</sup> primary to see who takes over in the 32<sup>nd</sup> SD, left vacant when Joe Baca(D-San Bernardino) was elected to the U.S. House. Here's our brief update & analysis...

...Soto finished ahead of Guzman by a **48.39%** margin vs. **39.56%**, with Demo David Eshleman of Fontana getting **12.05%**. Turnout was about 15.2%. But this is only part of the story...

...The GOP strategy in this special was to win the Jan. 11<sup>th</sup> election without a runoff. And to do that the GOP had to have a successful absentee ballots effort, combined with a low turnout. In A/Vs, Guzman had 6,933 vs. a combined Demo total of 5,486 - which gave Guzman **55.83%**. But as the votes from L.A. and San Bernardino precincts came in, Guzman's lead vanished. The 32<sup>nd</sup> SD has a Demo registration advantage, but it is not considered *totally safe* Demo turf. Like the 42<sup>nd</sup>

CD, this senate district has a moderate voter base...

...But it was the GOP's A/V program which caused Senate Demo Leader John Burton to essentially double his independent expenditure efforts just after X-Mas, when Demos discovered that they were being skunked by GOP consultant Wayne Johnson on A/Vs. And had it not been for the IEs, Soto would have lost. Demo consultant Richie Ross did IEs for both Burton and the CA Demo Party, while consultants Phil Mueller and Susan Burnside worked on A/Vs & GOTV for an IE funded by State Sen. Richard Polanco. Consultant Leo Briones did the up front campaign work for Soto...

...In terms of the runoff, Demos sources say Soto will hold the 32<sup>nd</sup> SD seat on Mar. 7<sup>th</sup>, when there should be a normal primary turnout. The key problem for the GOP is that Guzman is flawed because in the past he failed to pay taxes. That's a huge negative...

...FYI: According to Demos, at some point State Sen. Jim Brulte(R-Rancho Cucamonga) has to deliver in his backyard. Since '94, when he masterminded the GOP's big win in the Assembly, there's been lots of hype about Brulte's political skills, but right now it looks as though he will be 0-2 against Demos in the Inland Empire. Stay tuned...

#### **CAMPAIGN 2000: ASSEMBLY PRIMARY CONTESTS.**

Editor's note: GOP and Demo Assembly sources say there are about 15-20 hot primary races. **Calpeek** has IDed 14-16 which we plan to cover. Here's our first report. FYI: Demos currently hold a 47-32-1 edge over the GOP --- which is why there are more hot GOP primaries to cover...

☒ **17<sup>th</sup> AD** – This seat is now represented by Demo Mike Machado, who is *termed out* and is running for the State Senate. The Stockton/Lodi area is the one geographic area of Calif. where GOP registration is going up. And the 17<sup>th</sup> AD is a seat which GOP sources think they can win. There are 4 Republicans: Greg Aghazzarian, who is the favorite of the officially neutral GOP Assembly Caucus; farmer Rick Veldstra, who is backed by the CA Farm Bureau Federation; Gerry Machado (no relation to Mike), a businessman with lots of local backing. Also in the race is retired farmer Thomas Benigno. Aghazzarian has *deep pockets* and is supported by BOE Member Dean Andal(R). He's a hardliner compared to Machado and Veldstra – both of whom are mainstream GOPers. Even though Aghazzarian has the most money, right now sources rate the primary a toss up...

...On the Demo side, there are 4 candidates, but only two are

in the top tier: Tracy Councilwoman Barbara Matthews and Deputy DA Tom Montes. Montes led *Prosecutors for Davis* (as in Gov. Gray) and is backed strongly by the Demo Latino Caucus. Edge to Montes for now...

☒ **74<sup>th</sup> AD** – This is the AD of Howard Kaloogian(R), who is *termed out*. Demos need not apply in this AD. There are 7 GOP candidates. If you're a conservative GOPER and like long shot presidential candidate Alan Keyes, you'll love black radio talk show host C. Mason Weaver, a total hardliner, who is backed by Kaloogian. Another conservative is Escondido Councilman Keith Beier. Escondido school board member and businessman Mark Wyland is also a conservative, but ran into some trouble because he has contributed to some Demo candidates, including Bill Bradley. That cost Wyland the endorsement of Assemblyman Steve Baldwin, but Wyland has \$. The other top tier candidate is Vista Councilman Ed Estes Jr., who has backing from realtors and the Deputy Sheriffs Assn., and is considered mainstream. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> tier are Escondido Councilwoman June Rady, Escondido PD officer George A. Durgin Jr. and Encinitas Councilman James Bond. A toss up among top tier candidates...

☒ **67<sup>th</sup> AD** – This Orange Co. AD is solid GOP turf, but Demo voters could determine the ultimate Republican winner. The big news – and rather shocking – was that former GOP Assemblyman Dennis Brown dropped out on Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>, for personal and family reasons. He had tons of endorsements and money, but word on the street was that the campaign was getting very nasty – aimed at Brown on a personal level. That leaves only two other GOPers vying for Scott Baugh's open AD: GOP activist Jim Righeimer and Huntington Beach Councilman Thomas Harman. Much of Brown's backing will go to Righeimer, but Righeimer is almost totally unknown, whereas Harman has good name ID in one of the key areas of the 67<sup>th</sup> AD. In addition, Righeimer was a co-sponsor of Prop. 226 in 1998 – and *organized labor* may be out looking for payback. Right now an edge to Harman, based on name ID only...

☒ **24<sup>th</sup> AD** – This is the open seat of GOP Assemblyman Jim Cunneen, who is *termed out* and running for the U.S. House. The Demos would love to pick up this seat -- but with only 41.9% registration, it might prove tough. There are two Demos: school board member Steve Glickman, who just got into the race; and businesswoman Rebecca Cohn, who has been working this AD for 9 months. She's backed by popular Demo Assemblyman Ted Lempert and State Sen. Byron Sher. Demo sources rate Cohn a favorite for now...

...On the GOP side, there are 3 candidates: Los Gatos Mayor Steve Blanton; Monte Sereno Mayor Sue Jackson; and taxpayer organization leader Donna Cartwright. Blanton and Jackson are both moderates and are co-endorsed by Cunneen and U.S. Rep. Tom Campbell. GOP sources rate the primary a toss up between Blanton and Jackson...

☒ **43<sup>rd</sup> AD** – This is the AD now held by Demo Scott Wildman, who is running for the open 21<sup>st</sup> SD in this same area. The registration is 45% Demo vs. 34.7% GOP. In the past this has

been GOP turf, but the area is in transition. Sources rate all 3 Demos as being strong candidates. They are: USC medical educator Dr. John Hisserich; deep pocketed entertainment attorney Paul Krekorian; and Dario Frommer, Gov. Davis' former appointment secretary. Frommer has backing from the Demo Party establishment (including the Latino Caucus), while Krekorian has backing from local Demo Party clubs and activists. Our sources rate the primary as a toss up...

...On the GOP side, the Republican Assembly Caucus leans to Glendale attorney Mark MacCarley, but not to be counted out is L.A. Co. Dep. DA Craig Missakian, who has been endorsed by State Sen. Dick Mountjoy(R). Also in the GOP primary is Liz Michael...

☒ **34<sup>th</sup> AD** – This is the Open AD now held by GOP Assemblyman Keith Olberg. He's officially neutral in this battle between James L. Cox, the retired city mgr. of Victorville; and former legislator Phil Wyman. Sources say the GOP Assembly Caucus likes Cox best, but there's no official endorsement. Cox is supported by Assemblyman George Runner, as well as U.S. Reps. McKeon, Thomas and Lewis. Edge to Cox. More next week. Stay tuned...

**CAMPAIGN 2000: CALIFORNIA INITIATIVE UPDATE.**

Editor's note: Here's another update about initiatives which appear on the Mar. 7<sup>th</sup> ballot and initiatives which hope to qualify for Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> ballot...

♦ **Parental Notification Won't Qualify** – Sources report that the *Parental Notification Initiative* sponsored by the Campaign for Calif. Families won't make the Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> ballot. According to sources, the CCF's most recent newsletter said the effort has been "postponed." According to this CCF newsletter, the effort fell short by about 50,000 signatures...

♦ **Prop. 26 Brouhaha** – Since before X-Mas the Yes on 26 forces have been phone banking voters urging a YES vote. Those on the phone have told voters that they represent the Nat'l Taxpayers Alliance. On Jan. 11<sup>th</sup> the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Assn., the Nat'l Tax Limitation Cmt. and People's Advocate, called this NTA a "fraud." Prop. 26 will allow school bonds to pass with a 50% vote rather than the 2/3rds vote now required. So what is the Nat'l Taxpayers Alliance? It's HQed in Sacto and the president is Dan Kramer, while T. Anthony Quinn, Richard Swayne and former GOP Assemblyman Nao Takasugi serve on the BoD. In other words, it's a legit group. Kramer also is the executive director of the CA Indep. Petroleum Assn. in Sacto...

♦ **Prop. 1-A On TV** – No shock here, as CA Indian gaming spokesperson Mark Marcarro is once again telling voters to cast ballots for Prop. 1-A. Don't look for the NO side to have any tv, as they have zero \$\$\$. Correct ☎ for the NO side is (916)447-7415...

♦ **Prop. 30 & 31** – These ballot measures to repeal SB 1237 (30) and AB 1309 (31) were placed on the ballot via referendum. The sponsors are some of the major auto insurers in Calif. As referendum sponsors, the auto insurers are automatically on the **NO** side, while the beneficiaries of SB 1237 and AB 1309, Consumer Attorneys of Calif., are automatically on the **YES** side, defending the two bills approved by the legislature and signed by Gov. Davis. The NO side, *Consumers Against Fraud & Higher Insurance Costs*, are taking a **very big chance** with this pair of measures. Granted, AB 1237 was slanted in favor of the attorneys, but Gov. Davis refused to sign the bill unless AB 1309 was passed too. 1309 modifies 1237. Here's the situation: if YES on 30 wins, but 31 loses, the auto insurers are screwed big time. And even though it's tough to win a YES vote (especially when the NO side has already spent **\$44 million**), the YES side is only pushing approval of Prop. 30. Hummm...

♦ **Prop. 23** – The most current Field Poll shows this "None of the Above" initiative in big trouble: **36%** in favor vs. **46%** against, with **18%** undecided. This poll didn't sit well with Friends of Ernest chair Al Shugart, one of Prop. 23's sponsors. In a letter to Mervin Field, Shugart says the recent poll was "irresponsible and should not have been released." He concluded his letter to Field by saying, "We at Friends of Ernest request that you either fix your polling methods, or drop out of the polling business." Editor's note: sorry, Al, but I don't think that's going to happen. Stay tuned...

**CALPEEK'S CALENDAR OF POLITICAL EVENTS**

|         |                                                                                                                          |
|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Jan. 19 | Univision hosts a conference on Hispanic voting, 1-5:30 p.m., Golden State Museum in Sacramento. Info at (916)614 – 1917 |
| Jan. 23 | CA Demo presidential delegate caucuses for Gore & Bradley                                                                |
| Jan. 24 | Iowa Caucus                                                                                                              |
| Jan. 27 | State of the Union                                                                                                       |
| Jan. 27 | Campaign reports due (1/1 to 1/22)                                                                                       |



**CALPEEK'S INFOBAHN: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.**

Editor's note: Here are a few items, political & otherwise, worth noting...

■ **Armenian American Voters** – There'll be a concentrated effort over the next two election cycles to register upwards of 25,000 new Armenian American voters in the Glendale, Burbank, Pasadena and Hollywood areas. The official committee doing the registration drive is called 25000@2000 and is chaired by Glendale Councilman Rafi Manoukian. L.A. based EDH and Associates (Eric Hacopian) is handling the registration/GOTV drive...

■ **CRP's McGraw Now Fulltime** – Don't know if was the so-called *Hardcastle Memo* (blasting CRP Chair John McGraw's leadership of the CA GOP) or what, but McGraw is now working fulltime for the party. The Hardcastle memo hinted that the GOP's problems (especially fundraising) were due to McGraw's lack of focus and attention...

■ **L.A. Assessor Hahn Retiring** – Jan. 24<sup>th</sup> will be the last day on the job for Assessor Kenneth P. Hahn. He's served for 9+ years. He's retiring for health reasons. Hahn has recommended Rick Auerbach, a deputy in the office, to fill the job. There will be a winner-take-all election in November. Among those mentioned as possible candidates are former Assessor John Lynch, former assistant to the assessor John Carl Brogdon, Pasadena Councilman Chris Holden, and Auerbach...

■ **New Palmdale Councilman Quits** - Remember our story last year about L.A. Co. Sheriffs Sgt. Kevin Carney? He was elected to the Palmdale Council in November, just days after being arrested on suspicion of child molestation. He's now been hit with 17 felony counts --- against 4 girls. So he resigned his council post and resigned from the Sheriffs Dept. too. At the time of his arrest on Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>, Carney said it was all a political hatchet job...

■ **Sacto Bee's Jacobs Fighting Cancer** – Popular political columnist John Jacobs of the Sacto BEE is fighting melanoma – cancer. He had surgery 6 years ago, but the cancer has returned. He wrote about it in his Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> column. He's undergoing treatment and **Calpeek** wishes him the very best. Want to email John? [jjacobs@sacbee.com](mailto:jjacobs@sacbee.com)...

**CALPEEK'S NEW JOBS AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.**

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

● A sad note: S.F. political consultant Dick Pabich died Jan. 1 of AIDS-related complications. He was 44. R.I.P...

● Update your Calpeek Primary Election Guide and replace CA Gore director Kathy Bowler with Sky Gallegos. Bowler returns to the CA Demo Party...

● New members of the CA Comm. on the Status of Women include Roslyn Cooperman, Peg Yorkin, Elena Ong, Marilyn Kizziah, Rita Cameron-Wedding, Elmy Bermejo, Florence Fang and Marcia Sudolsky. The one holdover is Bonnie Sloane...

● Former FPPC general counsel Steve Churchwell has joined the Sacto-based law firm of Livingstone & Mattesich...

**CALPEEK'S MARKETPLACE NETWORK**

● **Political Organizer:** fulltime position for reproductive rights organization. Three years experience in political organizing; responsible for development, strategy and implementation of political plan; experience in working with Boards and Coalition partners. Legislative and campaign experience a plus. Fax resume: CARAL (415)334-6510.

● **L.A. business association** needs professional for policy development and advocacy activities involving various public policy issues. International trade emphasis. Minimum bachelor's degree + two years solid experience as lobbyist or similar. Salary+excellent benefits. FAX resume w/salary history: HR Mgr. (213)580-7511.

● **The Afriat Consulting Group** is looking for a political campaign assistant to help coordinate campaigns and fundraising. Position requires knowledge of local politics, print and mail production, database and good writing skills. E-mail resumes to [steve@afriat.com](mailto:steve@afriat.com) or fax to (323)856-9581.

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